

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

In the claims, please amend claims 1, 4-5, 13, and 14 as follows:

1. (currently amended) A composition for delivering an RNA to a cell comprising: ~~a modified RNA and a transfection reagent wherein said modified RNA consists of a hydrophobic group post-synthetically linked~~ a reversibly modified RNA consisting of a hydrophobic group covalently linked to ~~[[an]]~~ said RNA via a labile bond cleavable under mammalian physiological conditions ~~and wherein said hydrophobic group enhances interaction of said RNA with said~~ associated through hydrophobic interactions with a transfection reagent to form a complex ~~and wherein said modified RNA is selected from the group consisting of silylated RNA, acylated RNA, and alkylated RNA.~~
- 2-3. (canceled)
4. (currently amended) The composition of claim 1 wherein the ~~functional~~ hydrophobic group is linked to a ribose 2' hydroxyl of the RNA.
5. (currently amended) The composition of claim 1 wherein the hydrophobic group ~~is selected from the list consisting of:~~ and consists of a membrane active compound.
6. (previously presented) The composition of claim 4 wherein the RNA is modified at: a single ribose 2' hydroxyl of the RNA, more than one but not all of the ribose 2' hydroxyls of the RNA, or all of the ribose 2' hydroxyls of the RNA.
- 7-9. (canceled)
10. (previously presented) The composition of claim 1 wherein the RNA is selected from the group consisting of siRNA and microRNA.
- 11-12. (canceled)
13. (previously presented) The composition of claim 1 wherein the modified RNA is more resistant to nucleases than the RNA if it were not linked to the ~~functional~~ hydrophobic group.
14. (previously presented) The composition of claim 1 wherein a plurality of ~~functional~~ hydrophobic groups are attached to said RNA via labile bonds.